

Dear FCC officers:

I, John Blimke, KC9GSW, would like to see Morse code requirement be retained for General and Amateur Extra classes for the following reasons:

- 1.) Because I am hard of hearing, I cannot perceive spoken words while I listen to a SSB or AM amateur radio. Thus I would use CW (Morse code), digital modes such as PSK31, and visual modes such as SSTV.
- 2.) I like Morse code the best because CW receivers and transmitters powered by batteries can easily be built and portable for emergencies.
- 3.) Whenever there are emergencies, portable (or hand-held) SSB transceivers are useless to me for the reason stated above. I can set up a CW transceiver quickly without a laptop or similar device to use a digital mode such as PSK31 so that I can easily communicate with other ham operators.
- 4.) If the Morse code requirement has been eliminated, I may not be able to help whoever tries to contact me via a SSB amateur radio during an emergency. I would like to help, but my hearing impairment restricts my ability to communication with a SSB or AM radio.

I hope that the reasons above help you decide to retain the Morse code requirement.

Thank you,  
John Blimke, KC9GSW